

## Federal Communications Commission

## §0.283

under its jurisdiction and not within the jurisdiction of the Enforcement Bureau.

(b) Notwithstanding the authority delegated in paragraph (a) of this section, the Chief, International Bureau, shall not have authority:

(1) To act on any application, petition, pleading, complaint, enforcement matter, or other request that:

(i) Presents new or novel arguments not previously considered by the Commission;

(ii) Presents facts or arguments which appear to justify a change in Commission policy; or

(iii) Cannot be resolved under outstanding precedents and guidelines after consultation with appropriate Bureaus or Offices.

(2) To issue notices of proposed rulemaking, notices of inquiry, or reports or orders arising from rulemaking or inquiry proceedings;

(3) To act upon any application for review of actions taken by the Chief, International Bureau, pursuant to delegated authority, which application complies with §1.115 of this chapter;

(4) To act upon any formal or informal radio application or section 214 application for common carrier services which is in hearing status;

(5) To designate for hearing any applications except:

(i) Mutually exclusive applications for radio facilities filed pursuant to parts 23, 25, 73, or 100 of this chapter; and

(ii) Applications for facilities where the issues presented relate solely to whether the applicant has complied with outstanding precedents and guidelines; or

(6) To impose, reduce, or cancel forfeitures pursuant to section 203 or section 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, in amounts of more than \$80,000 for common carrier providers and \$20,000 for non-common carrier providers.

[60 FR 5324, Jan. 27, 1995, as amended at 60 FR 35506, July 10, 1995; 64 FR 60721, Nov. 8, 1999]

### §0.262 Record of actions taken.

The application and authorization files in the appropriate central files of the International Bureau are des-

ignated as the Commission's official records of actions by the Chief, International Bureau, pursuant to authority delegated to him.

### OFFICE OF PLANS AND POLICY

#### §0.271 Authority delegated.

(a) Insofar as authority is not delegated to any other Bureau or Office, and with respect only to matters which are not in hearing status, the Chief, Office of Plans and Policy is delegated authority to deny requests or to extend the time within which comments may be filed in dockets over which the Office of Plans and Policy has primary authority.

(b) [Reserved]

[45 FR 10347, Feb. 15, 1980]

### CHIEF, MASS MEDIA BUREAU

#### §0.283 Authority delegated.

The performance of functions and activities described in §0.61 of this part is delegated to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau: Provided, That the following matters shall be referred by the Chief, Mass Media Bureau to the Commission en banc for disposition:

(a) *Applications.* Formal and informal applications for new or modified facilities, and for the renewal, assignment, and transfer of construction permits and licenses involving such facilities, when such applications fail to satisfy the requirements of Commission rules or established Commission policy in the following areas of special concern:

(1) *Multiple ownership, concentration of control, and cross-interests.* (i) Acquisition of a third broadcast station or modification of facilities if such would result in the common ownership of three broadcast stations where any two are within 100 miles of a third and primary service contour overlap would occur; "one-to-a-market" situations involving UHF stations or TV satellite stations; and duopoly situations involving TV satellite stations. (Commonly owned AM and FM stations in the same market are treated as one station for the purpose of the "third station" limitations.)

(ii) Acquisition of a broadcast station by a newspaper in the same area, or other organization having substantial

interests in the print media in the same area.

(iii) Creation of common ownership interests, management ties, or employment relationships between licensees serving substantial common areas and populations. Commonality of areas and populations served shall be determined in duopoly situations by overlap of the following service contours: AM—1 mVm; FM—1 mVm; and TV—Grade B. In “one-to-a-market” situations, commonality of areas and populations served shall be determined by community encompassment with the following service contours: AM—2 mVm; FM—1 mVm; and TV—Grade A.

(iv) Acquisition of broadcast properties by corporations or individuals appearing to dominate the economic life of the community.

(2) *Anti-trust activity, unfair trade practices, and violations of law not previously considered by the Commission.* (i) Proposals by applicants against whom communications-related anti-trust suits are pending or against whom there is pending any anti-trust suit in which an adverse verdict has been reached.

(ii) Proposals by applicants who have entered into a consent decree, have pleaded guilty or nolo contendere, or have been adjudged guilty in an anti-trust case during the three-year period preceding the filing of the application.

(iii) Proposals by applicants who have been the subject of a final cease and desist or consent order issued by the Federal Trade Commission during the three-year period preceding the filing of the application.

(iv) Proposals by applicants or including parties with felony or capital offense conviction records, or against whom a criminal proceeding is pending.

(3) *Violations and complaint matters.* Proposals filed by applicants against whom violation notices of a serious nature are outstanding or against whom questions suggesting serious misconduct remain unresolved, or by applicants with records of serious past misconduct.

(4) *Equal employment opportunities.* Proposals filed by applicants whose equal employment opportunities programs do not comply with Commission

rules or policies and cannot be cleared by further staff inquiry or action, or whose past performance suggests the existence of discriminatory practices.

(5) *Short term licenses and renewals.* Proposals which in the opinion of the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, warrant the issuance of a short-term license or renewal authorization.

(6) [Reserved]

(7) *Programming: Program content and ascertainment of community needs.* (i) Applications for new stations or assignments and transfers.

(A) Commercial AM and FM proposals and commercial TV proposals of applicants for new stations and of assignees and transfers that have not submitted a narrative statement of their proposed programming.

(8) [Reserved]

(9) *Hearing orders.* (i) Mutually exclusive applications not in the Instructional Television Fixed Service, including renewal and construction permit applications, involving non-routine hearing issues.

(ii) Other renewal and assignment and transfer applications which appear to call for an evidentiary hearing.

(iii) Such other applications, as in the opinion of the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, warrant referral to the Commission prior to designation for hearing.

(10) *Interference and mileage separations.* Proposals for new or modified AM, FM, and TV facilities which would create substantial new prohibited overlap or station separation shortages. In the case of AM proposals (other than Class IV), a net increase in objectionable interference to another AM station involving more than 1 percent of the population served by such other station, whether or not consented to by the station affected, shall be referred to the Commission.

(11) *VHF television expansion.* Commercial VHF television proposals seeking to bring or extend their Grade B contours into a significant area or population included within the predicted Grade B contour of a UHF television station where the area or population involved is covered by fewer than 4 VHF television signals.

(12) *Agreements to amend or dismiss applications.* Any situation in which a

community will be deprived of a proposed broadcast station by reason of amendment or dismissal of an application mutually exclusive with another application for a different community.

(13) *Experimental and developmental operation.* Proposals for experimental and developmental authority containing policy implications which, in the opinion of the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, warrant referral to the Commission.

(14) *Miscellaneous applications and requests.* (i) Proposals for special temporary, emergency, conditional, or interim operating authority of more than routine significance.

(ii) Any other application, proposals, or request presenting novel questions of fact, law, or policy which cannot be resolved under outstanding precedents and guidelines.

(b) *Petitions and other requests for Commission action.* (1) Petitions to deny, informal objections, and other petitions, directed against AM, FM, and TV applications for new or modified facilities, or for renewal, assignment or transfer of control, will be referred to the Commission if they:

(i) Contain new or novel issues not previously considered by the Commission,

(ii) Appear to justify a change in Commission policy; or

(iii) Present documented allegations of failure to comply with the Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity rules and policies.

(2) Petitions and other requests for reconsideration of actions taken by the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, when such petitions or requests contain new or novel arguments not previously considered by the Commission, present facts or arguments which appear to justify a change in Commission policy, or request reconsideration of orders designating cases for hearing.

(3) Applications for review of actions taken by the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, which comply with § 1.115 of this chapter.

(4) Petitions and other requests for waiver of Commission rules, whether or not accompanied by an application, when such petitions or requests contain new or novel arguments not previously considered by the Commission,

or present facts or arguments which appear to justify a change in Commission policy.

(5) Petitions and other requests for declaratory rulings, when such petitions or requests contain new or novel arguments not previously considered by the Commission, or present facts or arguments which appear to justify a change in Commission policy.

(6) Petitions for rulemaking which have been accepted under § 1.403, and final dispositions of rulemaking proceedings not involving routine changes in the FM and TV Tables of Assignments.

(7) Petitions and other requests for waiver of the prime-time access rule, in areas where Commission policy is not clearly established.

(8) Petitions and other requests for long-term waiver of the policy limiting affiliations by commonly owned networks in the same market.

(9) Petitions and other requests for waiver of the sponsorship identification provisions of the Communications Act, in accordance with section 317(d) thereof.

(10) Any other petition, pleading, or request presenting novel questions of fact, law, or policy which cannot be resolved under outstanding precedents and guidelines.

(c) *Administration and enforcement.* (1) Proposed orders to show cause why station licenses or construction permits should not be revoked.

(2) Proposed actions following any case remanded by the courts.

(3) Notices of opportunity for hearing pursuant to § 1.80(g) of this chapter, and notices of apparent liability, final forfeiture orders, and orders cancelling or reducing forfeitures imposed under § 1.80(f) of this chapter if the amount set out in the notice of apparent liability is more than \$20,000, except that all forfeiture matters relating to the Commission's equal employment opportunity rules shall be referred to the Commission.

(4) Proposed public notices expressing Commission policy, interpreting the provisions of law, regulations, or treaties, or warning the broadcast industry as to certain types of violations.

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(5) Problems involving apparent violation of the Commission's rules governing equal employment opportunities or otherwise indicating the existence of discriminatory practices which, in the opinion of the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission should be brought to the attention of FCC Commissioners.

(6) Any other complaint or enforcement matter presenting novel questions of fact, law, or policy which cannot be resolved under outstanding precedents and guidelines.

[47 FR 47829, Oct. 28, 1982, as amended at 47 FR 55929, Dec. 14, 1982; 47 FR 58269, Dec. 30, 1982; 48 FR 24386, June 1, 1983; 49 FR 33603, Aug. 23, 1984; 57 FR 18088, Apr. 29, 1992; 61 FR 10689, Mar. 15, 1996; 65 FR 7454, Feb. 15, 2000]

### §0.284 Actions taken under delegated authority.

(a) In discharging the authority conferred by §0.283 of this part, the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, shall establish working relationships with other bureaus and staff offices to assure the effective coordination of actions taken in the following areas of joint responsibility;

(1) Complaints arising under section 315 of the Communications Act—Office of General Counsel.

(2) Objections to proposed call signs and requests for waiver of procedural rules governing call sign assignments—Office of Managing Director.

(3) Requests for waiver of tower painting and lighting specifications—Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

(4) Matters involving emergency communications, including the issuance of Emergency Alert System Authorizations (FCC Form 392)—Enforcement Bureau.

(5) Requests for use of frequencies or bands of frequencies shared with private sector nonbroadcast or government services—Office of Engineering and Technology and appropriate operating bureau.

(6) Requests involving coordination with other agencies of government—Office of General Counsel, Office of Engineering and Technology and appropriate operating bureau.

(7) Proposals involving transmitter sites on public lands owned or con-

trolled by the Departments of Agriculture or Interior—Office of Engineering and Technology.

(8) Proposals involving possible harmful impact on radio astronomy or radio research installations—Office of Engineering and Technology.

(9) [Reserved]

(b) With respect to non-routine applications granted under authority delegated in §0.283 of this part, the Chief, Mass Media Bureau or his designees, shall enter on the working papers associated with each application a narrative justification of the action taken. While not available for public inspection, these working papers shall, upon request, be made available to the Commissioners and members of their staffs.

(c) The Chief, Mass Media Bureau, shall prepare and submit to the Commission a quarterly statistical summary of actions taken during the preceding quarter under authority delegated to him in §0.283 of this part. The statistical summary shall be accompanied by a statement of industry trends apparent in the staff handling of non-routine matters during the same quarter.

[47 FR 47829, Oct. 28, 1982; 47 FR 56852, Dec. 21, 1982, as amended at 51 FR 12615, Apr. 14, 1986; 52 FR 5288, Feb. 20, 1987; 59 FR 32132, June 22, 1994; 59 FR 67092, Dec. 28, 1994; 61 FR 8477, Mar. 5, 1996; 64 FR 60721, Nov. 8, 1999]

### §0.285 Record of actions taken.

The history card, the station file, and other appropriate files are designated to be the official records of action taken by the Chief of the Mass Media Bureau. The official records of action are maintained in the Reference Information Center in the Consumer Information Bureau.

[64 FR 60721, Nov. 8, 1999]

### CHIEF, COMMON CARRIER BUREAU

### §0.291 Authority delegated.

The Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, is hereby delegated authority to perform all functions of the Bureau, described in §0.91, subject to the following exceptions and limitations.

(a) *Authority concerning applications.*

(1) The Chief, Common Carrier Bureau shall not have authority to act on any